

What Is Claimed Is:

5 1. A device for triggering a restraint system (45), the device triggering the restraint system (45) in response to a crash as a function of at least one criterion derived from an acceleration signal (22, 52),
wherein the device is connectable to a precrash sensor system (41), and the device is configured in such a way that the device deploys a second stage of an airbag as a function of a linkage of the at least one criterion and a closing velocity (21, 32, 51) which the device receives from the precrash sensor system (41).

10 2. The device as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the at least one criterion is a first deployment time (31) for the first airbag stage.

15 3. The device as recited in Claim 2,
wherein the device is configured in such a way that the device defines at least one class (61, 63, 65) as a function of the first deployment time of a first stage of the airbag (31) and the closing velocity (21, 32, 51), a specific class (61, 63, 65) establishing a second deployment time (24, 34, 59) for the second airbag stage.

20 4. The device as recited in Claim 3,
wherein the device is configured in such a way that the device does not trigger the second airbag stage at a closing velocity below a previously established limit (67).

5. The device as recited in Claim 3,
wherein the device defines a class (61, 63, 65) which distinguishes between non-deployment and deployment.